



peopleforbikes

P.O. BOX 2359 BOULDER, CO 80306
PeopleForBikes.org | 303.449.4893

March 5, 2021

Dear Chairman Clemens and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

On behalf of the PeopleForBikes Coalition, I would like to provide written testimony for the Committee's March 5th hearing in support of HB 1252, legislation relating to stopping and yielding while operating a bicycle.

PeopleForBikes is the national advocacy group that works for better policies and infrastructure for bike riding. We strive to make bike riding **safer and more inclusive for everyone**, including our 10,000 individual supporters in North Dakota.

The maneuvers allowed in this bill are colloquially referred to as the "Delaware Yield" since Delaware enacted a similar law in 2017. The goals are clear – align the law for bicycles approaching intersections with stop signs to match how people actual ride bikes, while still protecting the safety of all road users. Aligning the law with real world behavior makes actions more predictable for bike riders and drivers. Perhaps most critical to Delaware's success in enacted similar legal requirements was buy-in from law enforcement, who viewed the law as both practical and enforceable.¹

Idaho was the first state to pass a law similar to HB 1252. Research² on Idaho's 30-year Idaho Stop law has shown that bicycle safety is 30% safer in Idaho than in states lacking the law. In the first year after adopting the Idaho Stop, bicycle injuries declined by 14.5% in the state. Stopping at stop signs significantly slows³ a cyclist's momentum and even requires a higher energy expenditure throughout their ride. This could impact the safety of a cyclist when moving through an intersection.

PeopleForBikes supports HB 1252 and urges a do pass recommendation on the bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Alex Logemann
Policy Counsel

¹ <https://www.bicycling.com/news/a20026364/delaware-passes-idaho-stop/>

² <https://denver.streetsblog.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2018/02/idaho-law-jasonmeggs-2010version-2.pdf>

³ <https://nacto.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Fajans-J.-and-M.-Curry.-2001.pdf>